



DATE: June 22, 2020

AGENDA ITEM # 2

**TO:** Youth Commission

**FROM:** Bridget Matheson, Interim Staff Liaison

**SUBJECT:** Youth Commission Survey Results

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Receive an update from the Recreation Department Staff

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**BACKGROUND & DISCUSSION**

During the month of May, City Staff recommended to survey the current Youth Commission to identify areas that are working well and areas that can be improved to optimize the experience, attendance, and participation. Before COVID-19 the Youth Commission did not have a quorum to hold their meeting. The last time the commission officially gathered was in January 2020. Recreation Staff has noticed a decline in attendance pertaining to these meetings. A survey was sent out to the current Youth Commission on Wednesday, May 20, 2020. The Youth Commission was asked to complete the survey by Tuesday, May 26, 2020. It is recommended that the Youth Commission discuss the attached survey results.

Attachments:

A. Survey Results



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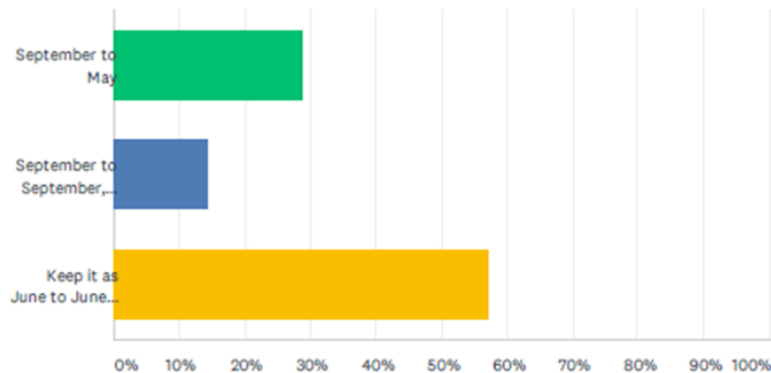
## Q1 What interested you in applying to serve as a Youth Commissioner?

Answered: 7 Skipped: 0

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	I wanted to make an impact on my city and the youth community as a whole, and provide my thoughts where it could count.	6/3/2020 4:16 PM
2	I wanted to help many teenagers with problems and needs they may face or have in our community.	6/3/2020 2:15 PM
3	Learning how to better serve myself and others who may be my same age while also working to solve other issues prevalent in my area.	6/3/2020 12:02 PM
4	I wanted to find ways to provide resources to the Youth in Los Altos, as well as organize programs to bridge and unite the youth within the community.	6/3/2020 11:00 AM
5	I wanted to serve my community by creating projects and visions that would connect Los Altos teens together.	5/26/2020 5:40 PM
6	I wanted to be able to help teens build a stronger relationship with their community, and serving as Youth Commissioner helped in that we were thinking and implementing ways to help engage teens in our community.	5/26/2020 2:33 PM
7	The opportunity to take leadership in my community and make a lasting impact on my peers.	5/20/2020 3:34 PM

## Q2 The current term for a Youth Commissioner is June to June, with the exception of the months of July and August. Which would you prefer for the term of participation?

Answered: 7 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
September to May	28.57% 2
September to September, including the summer months	14.29% 1
Keep it as June to June excluding summer months	57.14% 4
TOTAL	7



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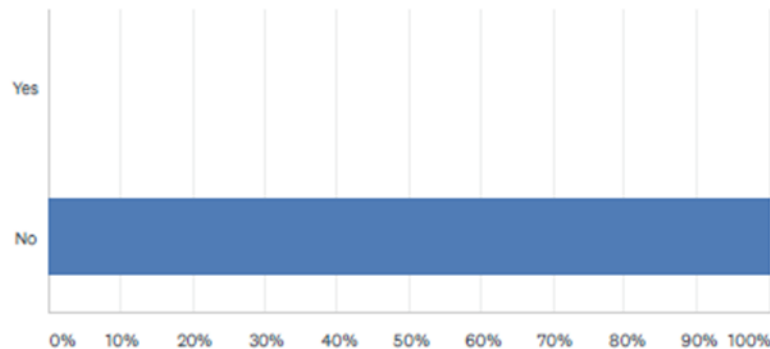
**Q3 The Youth Commission currently meets once a month on the first Monday of the month at 6:30 pm. What is the best day and time to meet once a month for you?**

Answered: 7 Skipped: 0

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	The first Monday of the month at 6:30pm works for me	6/3/2020 4:16 PM
2	First monday of the month at 5:00 pm	6/3/2020 2:15 PM
3	The current routine fits me perfectly.	6/3/2020 12:02 PM
4	Mondy or Tuesday at 6:30 PM work well with me. (But I would prefer Tuesday, if possible).	6/3/2020 11:00 AM
5	Monday	5/26/2020 5:40 PM
6	Friday at 6:30 PM	5/26/2020 2:33 PM
7	The current time works well. It may be valuable to meet twice a month to have more regular check-ins.	5/20/2020 3:34 PM

**Q4 Would you rather meet quarterly (once every 3 months) instead of monthly?**

Answered: 7 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	0.00% 0
No	100.00% 7
TOTAL	7

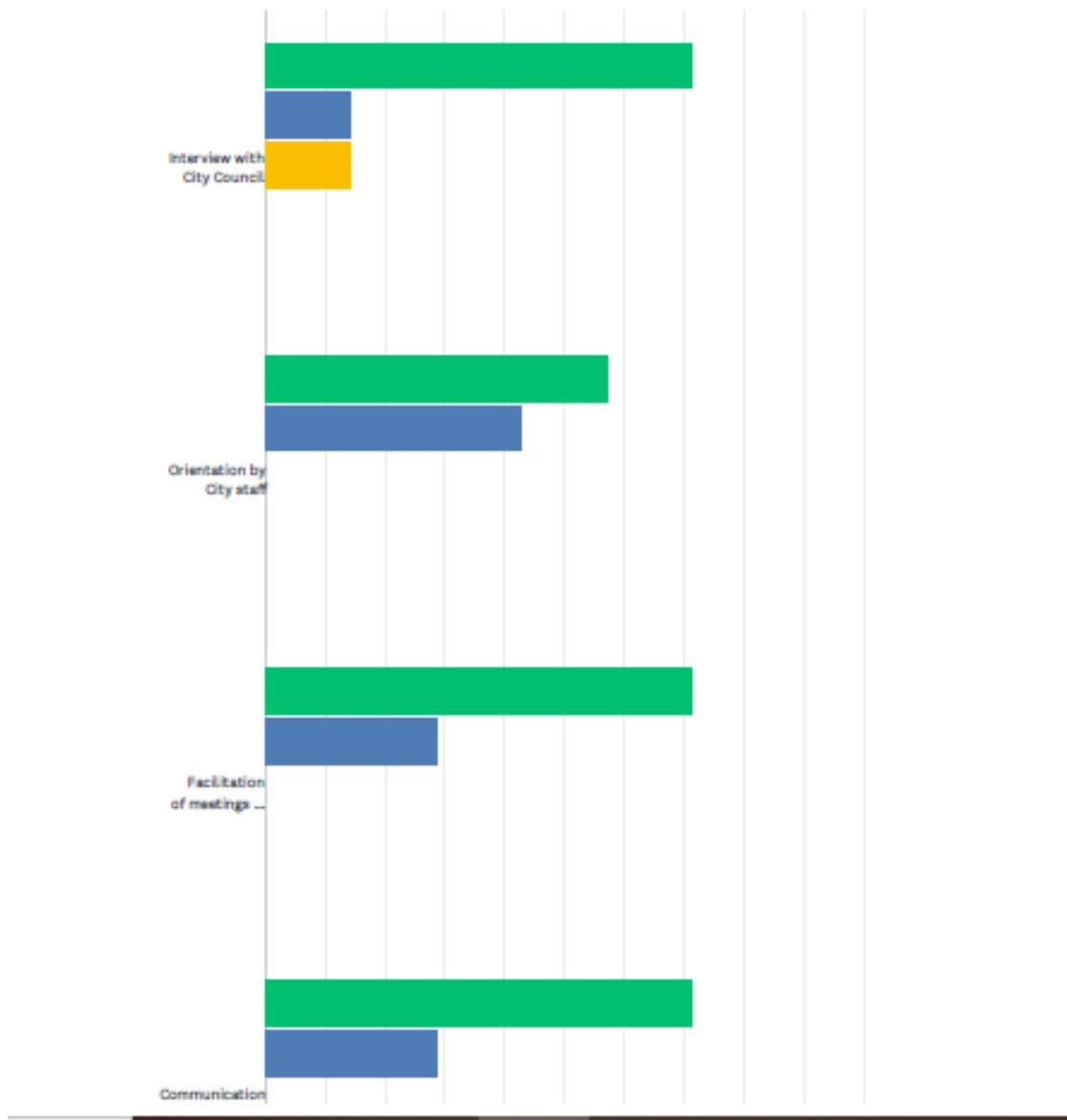


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Q5 We are interested in what your experience was like during the recruitment process? Please share your experience and how we could make it better:

Answered: 7 Skipped: 0





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## Q6 Please elaborate on your above choices and what did or didn't work.

Answered: 6 Skipped: 1

ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
Interview		100.00%	6
Orientation		66.67%	4
Meetings		66.67%	4
Overall Communication		66.67%	4

#	INTERVIEW	DATE
1	I thought that the interview went smoothly and that I was able to voice my hope for change in the city	6/3/2020 4:16 PM
2	In my interview I feel I had to figure out more about the Youth Commission then I would like so maybe offering a more upfront way of voicing the things the Youth Commission does would help.	6/3/2020 12:02 PM
3	I really enjoyed my conversation with my interviewers - I think I really got the chance to hear about their opinions on the youth part of this city. I also felt like they respected and responded to my opinions as well.	6/3/2020 11:00 AM
4	I enjoyed talking with the Mayor and Vice Mayor because I felt that my opinions were heard.	5/26/2020 5:40 PM
5	It went smoothly, I enjoyed talking with the council members.	5/26/2020 2:33 PM
6	The interview was very casual and allowed me to speak directly with city council representatives. I liked the conversation style.	5/20/2020 3:34 PM

#	ORIENTATION	DATE
1	I thought that the orientation went well and everything was straightforward	6/3/2020 4:16 PM
2	There is nothing wrong here.	6/3/2020 12:02 PM
3	I learned what was expected of me as a Youth Commissioner.	5/26/2020 2:33 PM
4	I think orientation could've been a bit more hands-on.	5/20/2020 3:34 PM

#	MEETINGS	DATE
1	The meetings were facilitated very well, since I got regular emails about meetings and the agenda for each meeting.	6/3/2020 4:16 PM
2	During meetings, City staff always helped to control the flow and make sure we did not stray to far off topic but sometimes their seemed to be a cut off in the communication due to opposing perspectives.	6/3/2020 12:02 PM
3	They went smoothly in that everything was completed.	5/26/2020 2:33 PM
4	The meetings are typically run by the chair and discussion style which works well for the projects we work on. It also allows anyone to jump in which is great!	5/20/2020 3:34 PM

#	OVERALL COMMUNICATION	DATE
1	Communication by City staff was done on a regular basis.	6/3/2020 4:16 PM
2	City staff is always able to respond and work with the commission and offers support in all of the commission's endeavors I wonder if their may be a way for the commission to better help the city.	6/3/2020 12:02 PM
3	The amount of emails received has been reasonable.	5/26/2020 2:33 PM
4	The city staff works really hard to keep us updated and provide us with opportunities. There is nothing I would change about this. Thank you guys!	5/20/2020 3:34 PM



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### Q7 Would it make a difference if the Youth Commission was recruited by a different entity such as your school or the City Recreation Department staff?

Answered: 7 Skipped: 0

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Yes, since there would be more interest in being a part of the youth commission and bringing fresh ideas to the youth commission.	6/3/2020 4:16 PM
2	Possibly a referral process with incentives for specifically selected candidates to apply. Otherwise, I do not think a recruitment process would be significantly more effective.	6/3/2020 2:15 PM
3	No, except for the fact that there may be an underlying bias towards individuals who apply and selection may shift from the best candidates to the best people a school may choose to represent them. However, it may be of interest to better include individuals from different schools to broaden the Commission's perspective on topics.	6/3/2020 12:02 PM
4	I think it would be useful to incorporate these departments into the recruiting process, but I still believe that the City itself should still play the main role in reviewing the applicants, etc... I also think that it is important, when recruiting through schools, to remember the local students that attend private schools elsewhere as well.	6/3/2020 11:00 AM
5	I think that the best way is to recruit through the City.	5/26/2020 5:40 PM
6	Not sure.	5/26/2020 2:33 PM
7	I think the current recruitment/application process works well. I do think the LAYC could do more for advertising the commission since a lot of kids don't know about it/don't know how they can get involved.	5/20/2020 3:34 PM

### Q8 What part of your Youth Commissioner experience has been valuable? What should the City continue to do to make future experiences positive?

Answered: 7 Skipped: 0

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	The ability to work with like-minded peers and work together to bring change where needed to the youth community. The city should keep advertising the youth commission as a valuable way for the youth to make an impact.	6/3/2020 4:16 PM
2	I believe that the meetings are beneficial and important. Additionally, subcommittee work can be very effective if it is completed adequately.	6/3/2020 2:15 PM
3	Personally, I have been able to learn how to better work in groups and collaborate with organizations to better complete goals.	6/3/2020 12:02 PM
4	I think I have been able to learn a lot from my peers on the Youth Commission. One discussion I recall having this year were the actions the Youth Commission needed to take in regards to vaping. I found it really valuable to be able to understand many aspects and voices in the issue, and I hope the City will continue to foster this space of discussion within the meeting.	6/3/2020 11:00 AM
5	I enjoy seeing the work that I put in reflected in the community and getting positive feedback.	5/26/2020 5:40 PM
6	I learned more about how the City runs. Being able to participate in Youth Commission meetings has also helped me be able to express my questions or ideas to an unfamiliar audience.	5/26/2020 2:33 PM
7	I've really valued the project and team management skills I've learned. I think, at times, commissioners neglected responsibilities or tasks. I hope in the future, the City can find a way to keep commissioners more accountable.	5/20/2020 3:34 PM





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### Q9 Was this experience what you expected, if not please explain?

Answered: 7 Skipped: 0

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Yes	6/3/2020 4:16 PM
2	Yes, I believe that the Youth Commission experience was what I expected	6/3/2020 2:15 PM
3	It was somewhat what I had in mind but I assumed that the commission would be better able to participate in it's own projects.	6/3/2020 12:02 PM
4	I think that this may be a personal preference - I felt like I was consistently pushing for defined steps that we could take (i.e. in regards to vaping, making the posters), and I felt like that might have detracted away from the element of discussion and thought into these projects. Overall, I believe I need to find a line between productivity and also allowing room for thought.	6/3/2020 11:00 AM
5	I did not know what to expect, but I am very pleased with my experience.	5/26/2020 5:40 PM
6	It wasn't because I thought I would be more involved and able to host events for teens in the community. Additionally, I thought that we would all be working together rather than being split up among subcommittees.	5/26/2020 2:33 PM
7	Yes! In my four years, we've accomplished a lot of new initiatives that I've seen positively impact my community. I think there's still a lot to be done and I can't wait to see what the next few years bring.	5/20/2020 3:34 PM

### Q10 What part of your Youth Commissioner experience could be improved?

Answered: 6 Skipped: 1

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Maybe having an easy-to-use communication platform for subcommittees to talk on. As of now, there really isn't a clear method besides maybe email.	6/3/2020 4:16 PM
2	Organization of commissioner events outside of meetings.	6/3/2020 2:15 PM
3	The commission's participation and involvement in projects set up by them needs work.	6/3/2020 12:02 PM
4	I think it would be good to have a mid-year point reflection to reflect on the progress that has been made, and what still needs to happen before the end of the year.	6/3/2020 11:00 AM
5	I think Youth Commissioners should take more time to brainstorm events to engage teens during one of the early Youth Commission meetings.	5/26/2020 2:33 PM
6	As I mentioned, I think there should be a more thorough review of commissioner responsibilities and accountability during reapplication and throughout the terms.	5/20/2020 3:34 PM



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### Q11 The City has experienced a lack of participation at the regular commission meetings. In your opinion, what do you attribute that to?

Answered: 6 Skipped: 1

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Possible inflexibility in commissioner schedules.	6/3/2020 2:15 PM
2	The environment commissioners are given to speak in may not best provide each individual with the opportunity to involve themselves.	6/3/2020 12:02 PM
3	For me, I know that I took on an additional role at school, and that affected my ability to attend the February and March meetings. I think one way to improve this, is to outline in the end of each meeting, that the following subcommittees need to be present in the next meeting to discuss over certain agenda items and their next steps. Having this "sense of duty" to a certain project may improve the attendance.	6/3/2020 11:00 AM
4	Loss of connection with the citizens on social media.	5/26/2020 5:40 PM
5	I think that meeting once a month allows people to procrastinate or forget about Youth Commission. It also drags projects to take a lot longer than it should take because it is hard for Youth Commissioners to work together outside of meetings due to schedule differences, location differences, and the Brown Act.	5/26/2020 2:33 PM
6	The lack of personal responsibility tied to these meetings. Our meetings/initiatives tend to be slow-moving and the once-a-month meetings can cause commissioners to get detached from projects.	5/20/2020 3:34 PM

### Q12 In your opinion, what could the City do differently to encourage regular attendance and participation in special projects or subcommittee work?

Answered: 7 Skipped: 0

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	I believe that the City should provide subcommittees with a designated member from the city's staff to have as a reference.	6/3/2020 4:16 PM
2	Commissioners might be assigned a specific role necessary for the completion of each meeting, or have a number of meetings they must attend to fulfill a quota.	6/3/2020 2:15 PM
3	I believe there was a mandate about the attendance at commission meetings maybe enforcing that would help people to better follow through on their duties.	6/3/2020 12:02 PM
4	I think the City could also dedicate some whole-Commission meeting time to subcommittee meetings, where the Commissioners on their individual subcommittees could work out their plans for the upcoming month.	6/3/2020 11:00 AM
5	Offer incentives, publish and sponsor other events.	5/26/2020 5:40 PM
6	I think that splitting people up among subcommittees disconnects other youth commissioners from the ones in the subcommittees because they don't know what is going on with the project. So, they are therefore unable to contribute and during the Youth Commission meeting, their time is just being wasted.	5/26/2020 2:33 PM
7	I think having more frequent meetings would make it easier for commissioners to stay committed to the LAYC. In addition, the chair should be in charge of sending a recap email of the meeting with tasks and expectations for the next meeting. This way commissioners are reminded of the projects they're working on and assignments they have to finish.	5/20/2020 3:34 PM



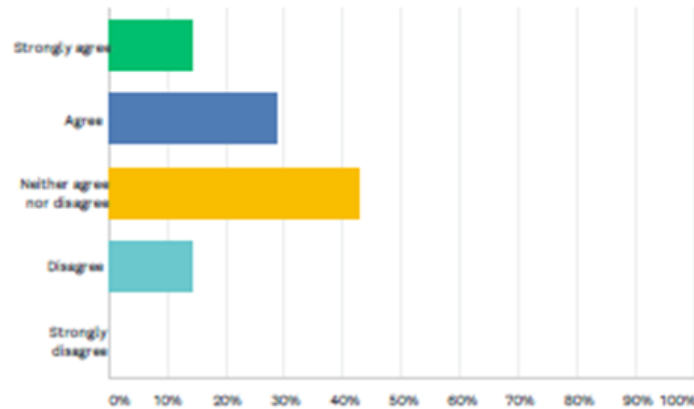


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### Q13 Would it be more beneficial to earn school credit for your participation on the Youth Commission?

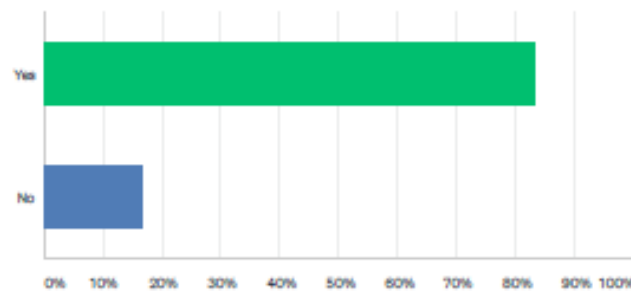
Answered: 7 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	14.29%	1
Agree	28.57%	2
Neither agree nor disagree	42.86%	3
Disagree	14.29%	1
Strongly disagree	0.00%	0
TOTAL		7

### Q14 Are you willing to remain on the Commission and meet during the summer months to work on the current Youth Commission format?

Answered: 6 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	83.33%	5
No	16.67%	1
TOTAL		6



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### Q15 Additional Comments.

Answered: 4 Skipped: 3

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	None	6/3/2020 4:16 PM
2	As far as earning school credit goes I believe it may be best to just provide volunteer hours to commissioners rather than providing them with another form of reward. Also their participation on the LAYC could also be considered as an extracurricular in itself to bolster a college application.	6/3/2020 12:02 PM
3	I think we should meet twice a month and also work out a way that doesn't disconnect Youth Commissioners from each other.	5/26/2020 2:33 PM
4	I've had an incredible four years on the commission! Thank you so much!	5/20/2020 3:34 PM